

# CHRONOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND DOCUMENTS

*Supplement to*

## THE WORLD TODAY

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*December 10—19, 1945*

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**AUSTRIA.** Dec. 19.—The new Parliament met, and Dr. Renner made a speech in which he called for the return to Austria of the South Tyrol.

**BELGIUM.** Dec. 12.—The Foreign Minister announced that a zone of occupation for Belgium had been delimited in Germany, inside the British zone.

**CANADA.** Dec. 14.—The House of Commons, by 169 votes to 9, approved participation in the Bretton Woods Agreements.

Dec. 17.—The House of Commons unanimously approved the declaration on atomic energy signed in Washington by representatives of Britain, the U.S.A., and Canada.

**CHINA.** Dec. 12.—Government troops entered Mukden and Chang-chun, after agreement had been reached with the Russians who "agreed to give full protection to the Chinese national troops whenever and wherever they land in the north-east, and to ensure the smooth taking-over of the north-eastern provinces".

Dec. 13.—Gen. Chiang Kai-shek and Mr. T. V. Soong arrived in Peking.

Dec. 14.—President Truman's statement on policy towards China. (see U.S.A.)

Dec. 15.—Gen. Chiang Kai-shek told officials, foreign diplomats, and U.S. Marine officers in Peking that he was determined to build a united, free, and equal China, and called upon all who had fought the Japanese to work with equal devotion for the regeneration of their country.

Dec. 17.—Gen. Chiang Kai-shek, in a press statement in Peking, said he was thoroughly in accord with President Truman's statement and intended to bring "other elements" into his Government.

*Dec. 18.*—Gen. Chiang Kai-shek re-entered Nanking, after 8 years' absence, and was given a great reception.

*Dec. 19.*—Gen. Chou En-lai, leader of a Communist delegation to a peace council to be held in Chungking, told the press that negotiations were being resumed in an "all-out attempt to stop the fighting first". The Communist Party would submit proposals for a peace plan for the whole of China.

**EGYPT.** *Dec. 12.*—The Council of the Arab League decided to admit Palestine as a member.

*Dec. 15.*—Crown Prince Paul of Greece, speaking at Alexandria, said the time had come for those in Greece who insisted on the plebiscite, which should have been held 6 months after liberation, to see that it was not postponed any longer. The King had kept his pledge; it was now time for others to keep theirs. He had accepted the suggestion that he should not return before the plebiscite because he wished to be helpful to the Allies, and to prevent the impression that he imposed himself on the country.

*Dec. 16.*—*Al Kotla*, Makram Ebeid Pasha's (the Finance Minister's) party organ, published the contents of the Note to the British Government regarding the revision of the treaty.

The Government approved participation in the Bretton Woods Agreement.

**FRANCE.** *Dec. 10.*—Gen. de Gaulle, in a broadcast, said the continuance of France's independence depended on the preservation by her of a position of equilibrium between the two great Powers east and west of her. She refused to be a pawn of either. The exclusion from the Moscow meeting was the direct result of their differences, and of France's determination not to take sides. Her relations with both Powers were the measure of their good relations with each other. He ended with a strong warning against political quarrels; no party must hold aloof or be held aloof from the national community.

*Dec. 13.*—Agreement signed with Great Britain regarding Syria and the Lebanon. (*see Great Britain.*) M. Bidault communicated the text of the agreement to the U.S. and Soviet Ambassadors and to the Ministers of the Levant States, but it was not made public.

*Dec. 14.*—The Minister of Labour stated that 20,000 German prisoners-of-war were coming from the U.S. zone and 10,000 from camps in France to work in the French coal mines.

The Government sent a Note to London and Moscow asking their views on relations with Gen. Franco's régime. It was understood that France was willing to allow individual members of the exiled Republican Cortes and Government to enter France to make whatever contact they could with the opposition inside Spain. (Four Republican Ministers were already in France.) Señor Bizet, Vice-President of the exiled Cortes, arrived in Paris from Mexico.

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*Dec. 16.*—M. Mayer, former Minister of Communications, was appointed Commissioner-General for German and Austrian Affairs, a new post. He was to co-ordinate all administrative services in the French zones, hitherto divided between the Secretary-General for German and Austrian Affairs and the C.-in-C. of the forces of occupation.

**GERMANY.** *Dec. 10.*—The Allied Control Council decided not to set up, for the present, an Allied commission to investigate the presence in the British zone of ex-*Wehrmacht* formations. It also decided that each Power should furnish details of the numbers of such formations in its zone.

*Dec. 11.*—U.S. economic policy for Germany outlined. (*see U.S.A.*)

*Dec. 12.*—The commandant and 39 of the staff of Dachau concentration camp were convicted of committing atrocities by a U.S. Military Government court, and a minor Nazi official was sentenced to death for killing a handcuffed U.S. airman.

*Dec. 13.*—Thirty-six of the 40 Dachau officials were sentenced to be hanged, and 4 to long terms of imprisonment.

It was announced in Berlin that Marshal Zhukov had agreed to a British suggestion for an interchange of visits between British and Russian correspondents, and that 5 or 6 of them would shortly visit the Russian zone. Marshal Zhukov also gave permission for British search parties to look for missing persons.

The 7 men and 3 women sentenced to death in the Belsen trial were hanged.

*Dec. 18.*—The Allied authorities in Berlin gave permission to some 300,000 trade union members to hold a free election.

**GREAT BRITAIN.** *Dec. 11.*—The Minister of State, replying to questions in Parliament about Java, said the tasks for which British troops went there were nearly completed. Practically all the Japanese had been disarmed and he hoped the troops might come away in the early future. It was true that Japanese troops had been used defensively. That meant that if internees, women and children, Dutch, Eurasians, and others were being attacked and subject to murder and cruelty, often by Indonesian bands, the Japanese were called on to repel those attacks. They had been used offensively only once, and that was to save British soldiers and rescue some starving civilians.

The suppression of the terrorist groups would not in any way weaken the nationalist cause in their negotiations with the Dutch. It would strengthen matters. He had reasons to believe that Dr. Sjahrir would welcome the suppression of the extreme elements who accepted orders from nobody. The proposals of the Dutch Government were far-reaching and liberal, and the right plan now was to proceed on the road of co-operation. The first essential was that both sides should appoint representatives with full powers that were not in danger of being repudiated; in the meantime the British forces must continue to

do what was necessary to ensure the safety of Allied prisoners-of-war and of the helpless internees.

Mr. Hynd, replying to a question about the Soviet complaint of the delay in disbanding the *Wehrmacht* in the British zone, said that some units and personnel had been retained for essential work, including tasks such as lifting mines. They had, of course, no armament, and the total number of men involved was some 520,000. Of the former *Wehrmacht* personnel who fell into British hands 75 per cent had already been disbanded.

*Dec. 12.*—Mr. Bevin, in a statement in Parliament about the Moscow meeting, said they had informed the French Government that they would not commit themselves on matters of concern to France in her absence.

The Government issued two documents: a White Paper entitled "Inter-Territorial Organization in East Africa" (Colonial No. 191), and a dispatch entitled "Colonial Development and Welfare", sent to Colonial Governments and dated Nov. 12. The former put forward proposals for the creation of an East African High Commission consisting of the Governors of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika, a central legislature, and an executive organization supported in appropriate cases by advisory boards. The latter set out proposals for allocating among their territories the increased amount of money which the Colonial Development Act, 1945, provided for schemes of development.

*Dec. 13.*—The House of Commons, by 345 votes to 98, accepted a Government motion approving the Anglo-American Agreement, and by 314 votes to 50 passed the second reading of the Bretton Woods Agreement Bill. Mr. Churchill strongly advised his supporters to abstain from voting on the Loan Agreement, but 71 voted against it; also 23 Labour, 3 Liberal National, and 3 Independent Members.

An agreement was signed with the French Government regarding the joint withdrawal of troops from Syria and the Lebanon. A joint statement declared that the two Governments had recognized that it was in their joint interest to encourage the economic well-being and security of the peoples of the Middle East. It went on: "Moreover, equally desirous of assuring to Syria and the Lebanon the full exercise of the independence proclaimed by France in 1941 and consecrated by the admission of these States into the United Nations, and in the wish to draw the natural conclusions arising from the end of hostilities with regard to the Allied military dispositions in the Levant, they have decided jointly to examine the conditions for a methodical regrouping and withdrawal of their military forces in this zone. British and French military experts will meet for this purpose at Beirut on Dec. 21. One of their essential tasks will be to fix a very early date for the first measures of evacuation". The text of the Agreement itself was not published.

Mr. Morrison announced in Parliament that the Government had decided that the delegation going to India should not go under the auspices of the Empire Parliamentary Association, but would "contain

representatives from another place" nominated by the Lord Chancellor, while the Speaker had agreed, if the House so desired, to nominate the members from the Commons. They would go out as representatives of Parliament to make personal contacts, to ascertain individual views, and to convey to leading Indians the broad general attitude of the chief political parties in the U.K. They would not be charged with making an official enquiry.

*Dec. 14.*—The Bretton Woods Agreements Bill was passed through its remaining stages in the Commons.

Mr. Bevin left for Moscow, via Berlin.

An official statement (made in Singapore) regarding relations with Siam pointed out that a state of war still existed with that country, as Siam's withdrawal of her declaration of war was considered unconstitutional. Siam would have to offer some concrete evidence of her good faith, and should also make restitution for the damage done to British interests and, in particular, to the interests of territories bordering Siam for the welfare of which Britain was responsible.

*Dec. 18.*—In the House of Lords the Government motion of approval of the Financial Agreements with the U.S.A. was carried by 90 votes to 8.

The Persian Ambassador issued a statement appealing to Britain as a signatory of the treaty of January 1942 (guaranteeing Persian integrity) and declaring that the "usurpation of power in Azerbaijan" could not be accepted as an accomplished fact.

**GREECE.** *Dec. 10.*—The Government granted an amnesty to all persons convicted of crime, except homicide, committed between April 7, 1941 and Feb. 12, 1945 (date of the Varkiza Agreement). It also cancelled proceedings against 60,000 persons for alleged offences connected with the resistance movement or the political strife after liberation.

*Dec. 11.*—The E.A.M. central committee withdrew its confidence from the Government, describing it as a national danger and accusing it of continuing the "disastrous policy of previous Governments which led the country to internal anarchy, economic chaos, and isolation in world affairs". The leaders stated that only about 2,000 of their supporters would be released under the amnesty. Nearly 18,000 had been imprisoned, of whom some 2,400 were serving sentences and all the rest were still awaiting trial. Apart from this, nearly 49,000 persons were being prosecuted as members of E.A.M. or E.L.A.S., over 18,000 of whom were charged with homicide.

E.A.M. also decided to boycott the elections in March, complaining that the register prepared by the previous Government was unsatisfactory, but the Government maintained that a new one was not necessary, as improvements would be made in the existing one.

*Dec. 15.*—The Crown Prince's speech at Alexandria. (*see Egypt.*)

**HUNGARY.** Dec. 10.—Szalasi was sentenced to death by the Budapest people's court.

Dec. 11.—The Government decided to dissolve the Hungaro-Russian Trading Co. formed in Budapest after the conclusion of the trade agreement.

**INDIA.** Dec. 10.—The Viceroy received Mr. Gandhi. Speaking at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta Lord Wavell said India stood at the golden gate of political and economic opportunity; yet she stood at the edge of tragedy. Her political freedom was not a simple problem to be resolved by repeating passwords and formulas, such as "Quit India", and it "cannot and will not be resolved by violence". But he did not believe a solution would be very difficult given goodwill, common sense, and patience. Hindus and Moslems had got to live together, and they surely could arrange terms on which they would do so.

"The leaders of India", he said, "—all of us who have power or responsibility in any field, political, administrative, commercial, or proprietary—are, or should be, only the servants of the masses . . . On our wisdom and understanding of one another hangs their fate."

It was the earnest wish of the British Government and people to give India freedom, but "we cannot and will not abandon our responsibilities", he added, "without bringing about some reasonable settlement".

Mr. Jinnah stated in Bombay that the deadlock was not between Britain and India but between Congress and the Muslim League. The crux of the problem was Pakistan, and the deadlock would be solved in 10 minutes if Mr. Gandhi would agree to the Punjab, the North-West Frontier, Baluchistan, Sind, Bengal, and Assam constituting the separate State. Britain was putting the cart before the horse by proposing the formation of a constitution-making body before settling the Pakistan issue.

Dec. 11.—The Congress working committee passed a resolution reaffirming the creed of non-violence. Of the disorders of August, 1942, it said "the misguided masses took the reins into their own hands, and if many acts of heroism and sacrifice are to their credit there were acts done which could not be included in non-violence". The policy of non-violence adopted in 1920 continued unabated, it declared.

Another resolution stated that the support given to the men of the I.N.A. did not mean that the Congress Party had deviated from its policy of attaining *Swaraj* by peaceful and legitimate means. It expressed, however, the pride of Congress in the sacrifice, discipline, patriotism, and spirit of unity displayed by the I.N.A.

Mr. Gandhi told a Calcutta meeting that people should not think that when British rule was over there would not be others to invade India. If Indians did not behave in a disciplined manner and make a proper use of the power they would soon have in their hands somebody might snatch it from them again.

Dec. 12.—Congress issued a manifesto about the provincial elections promising freedom for each group and a territorial area within the larger framework of the nation to develop its own life and culture. It proposed the reconstitution of the provinces on a linguistic and cultural basis. Within the federation brought about by willing units the number of federal subjects would be reduced to the minimum. The backward elements were promised special safeguards, particular attention being paid to the depressed classes for their social, educational, and economic progress.

Social control of mineral resources, transport, and of the chief methods of production and distribution in land, industry, etc., was proposed, the ideal being a co-operative commonwealth owning or controlling key and basic industries and services, and agrarian reform was given prominence. In foreign relations Congress stood for the establishment of a world federation of free nations, particular attention being given to Asiatic neighbours for reasons of security.

The Working Committee voted to expel the 8 Communist members.

Mr. Jinnah, in a further statement, suggested the possibility of exchanges of population, and frontier adjustments where primarily Hindu and Muslim areas were contiguous with Hindustan or Pakistan States.

**ITALY.** Dec. 10.—Other Cabinet appointments were: Minister of Finance, Signor Corbino; and Minister of Transport, Signor Lombardi. Each of the 6 parties held 3 portfolios.

Dec. 12.—The Allied Commission in Rome announced that territory under their control would return to Italian administration on Dec. 31. It would include Lampedusa, Pantelleria, and Linosa, but not Venezia Giulia and Udine province, the latter being retained solely for military reasons.

Dec. 18.—Yugoslav charges against Italy. (*see Yugoslavia.*)

Dec. 19.—Signor de Gasperi told the press that he had tried by every possible means to get into direct contact with the Yugoslav Government to discuss controversial questions and had asked the three big Powers to allow quasi-normal diplomatic relations. He was ready to discuss any question the Yugoslavs wished. He admitted there were in Italy a number of Yugoslav political refugees whom Marshal Tito would like to see returned; these were persons who had left Yugoslavia for reasons which concerned them personally.

**JAPAN.** Dec. 12.—Prince Nashimoto and 21 other prominent service officers, political leaders, and industrialists surrendered to the Allied authorities in Tokyo.

Dec. 14.—The Australian military court at Morotai sentenced 5 Japanese officers to death and 6 men to 10 years' imprisonment for the murder of 3 Australian and one U.S. airman on Talaud Island.

*Dec. 15.*—Gen. MacArthur issued an order for the ending of compulsory adherence to Shintoism and of State support for it.

*Dec. 16.*—Prince Konoye committed suicide. (He had been ordered to surrender to the Allied authorities as a war criminal.) Marquis Kido surrendered to the U.S. authorities.

**JAVA.** *Dec. 10.*—A British convoy was ambushed 40 miles south of Batavia, and R.A.F. aircraft wiped out the village nearby after warning the inhabitants by leaflet. A thousand British and Indian troops arrived at the port of Batavia.

*Dec. 11.*—Gen. Dempsey arrived in Batavia and saw Dr. Van Mook and Gen. Christison. Dr. Sjahrir asked for a clear-cut statement whether the Singapore conference meant that the functions of the Allied troops in Java had been widened to include the enforcing of law and order throughout Java. He said there could hardly be such a thing as a war against the extremists alone.

Statement in Parliament in London. (*see Great Britain.*)

Gen. Yamamoto stated, in Singapore, that he was mainly responsible for fostering the Indonesian independence movement. (He was chief of staff of the Army in Java.)

*Dec. 12.*—British troops took over control of all main railway stations. The nationalist T.K.R. (Peace Preservation Corps), now recognized as an official police force, formed special railway detachments to protect stations.

Statement by Dutch Government. (*see The Netherlands.*)

*Dec. 13.*—Indian troops destroyed Bekasi, the small town where the crew and passengers of the aircraft which crashed were murdered on Nov. 23.

*Dec. 16.*—British troops destroyed a village near Buitenzorg in which snipers were hidden, and cleared an area west of Semarang.

**MALTA.** *Dec. 14.*—The National Assembly adopted a motion recommending that the island's affairs come under the Dominions Office instead of the Colonial Office.

**THE NETHERLANDS.** *Dec. 12.*—Mussert was sentenced to death by a special court in The Hague. The Government announced that they had lodged claims for war compensation valued at £648 million against Germany.

The Government, in a statement in the Second Chamber, reiterated their intention of co-operating with moderate Javanese leaders in the development of the country and of giving full consideration to Indonesian aspirations. The present state of anarchy was attributable to the fact that psychological as well as physical assistance had been given to the nationalists by the Japanese.

*Dec. 18.*—Dr. van Mook arrived at Amsterdam from Java.

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NEWFOUNDLAND. *Dec. 11.*—Statement in Parliament in London announcing a national convention in 1946. (*see Great Britain.*)

NEW ZEALAND *Dec. 19.*—The Prime Minister left for London to attend the United Nations' Assembly.

NORWAY. *Dec. 13.*—Two *Gestapo* officials were sentenced to death in Oslo and 1 to life imprisonment for murdering 4 British commandos.

PALESTINE. *Dec. 12.*—Palestine a member of the Arab League. (*see Egypt.*)

*Dec. 14.*—A Palestine Arab leader told the British press that the boycott aimed at the total strangulation of Jewish industry by joint action of the Governments adhering to the Arab League. Further, all Arab countries had agreed to a total blockade of Palestine Jews—men, women, and children—none of whom would be granted visas even to visit any country in the League.

PERSIA. *Dec. 11.*—Refugees reaching Teheran stated that in Azerbaijan the Governor sent there by the Government had lost all hope of settling the crisis and asked for authorization to return. He was either boycotted by the Democratic Party or treated as "Ambassador to the Azerbaijan Republic".

*Dec. 13.*—The Government, in a memorandum to the British, U.S., and Soviet Embassies, asked that a decision should be taken that the forces of the three Allied Governments "should immediately evacuate the whole country". It said it was imperative that this problem should be discussed at the Moscow meeting. Some 2,000 Azerbaijan troops entered Ardabil, 115 miles east of Tabriz, and demanded the surrender of the garrison.

*Dec. 14.*—All the troops sent north arrived back in Teheran, as did also M. Bayatt, who had been sent to Tabriz as Governor. He said Tabriz was surrounded by Tudeh forces, and Azerbaijan seemed definitely lost.

*Dec. 15.*—The "National Government" of Azerbaijan issued a proclamation (according to Moscow radio) saying that "all those who threaten order and security by sabotage and harmful actions will be declared enemies of the people and will be punished according to the laws". Private property was declared inviolable, but to eliminate unemployment the State lands and those of reactionaries who had fled would be divided among the peasants. The "Government" recognized the Central Government and would carry out all measures not contradictory to the autonomy of Azerbaijan.

*Dec. 16.*—The surrender of the Tabriz garrison was announced and, according to Moscow, some 40 other towns in the neighbourhood were occupied by the "Democrat" forces. Rezaieh was reported to be surrounded by a force of Kurds, Assyrians, Chaldeans, and "Democrats".

*Dec. 17.*—Tudeh activities were reported to have spread to the province of Gilan, on the Caspian seaboard.

*Dec. 18.*—The Prime Minister told the Majlis that he still intended to go to Moscow, and would again appeal to the "Big Three" to withdraw their troops as soon as possible. He had decided never to recognize the so-called Government of Azerbaijan—a band of adventurers—and he would not allow a small number of people who had taken up arms against the Government to bring the country to ruin through terror, murder, and rebellion.

The Government issued a declaration describing the Soviet Note to the U.S.A. as "by no means consistent with the facts". As for the movement in Azerbaijan being spontaneous it said that a number of adventurers there had taken advantage of the presence of foreign forces and had engaged in an armed rising against the monarch, the democratic Government, and constitutional law. It refuted the Soviet statement that Russian forces had not interfered with the Persian troops in the Soviet zone.

Statement by the Ambassador in London. (*see Great Britain.*)

Soviet comment on the question of foreign troops in Persia. (*see U.S.S.R.*)

**SAUDI ARABIA.** *Dec. 17.*—The King received Lord Alanbrooke and Gen. Paget at Jeddah.

**SIAM.** *Dec. 14.*—Statement regarding British attitude to Siam. (*see Great Britain.*)

**SPAIN.** *Dec. 12.*—The Government were understood to have recognized the debt to Italy for help in the civil war, estimated at 5,000 million lire (£12 million odd). Spain undertook to pay about one-third in exports to Italy.

*Dec. 14.*—Note from French Government to London and Moscow re the Franco régime. (*see France.*)

*Dec. 15.*—It was announced that 2,500 prisoners would be released before Christmas.

**SWEDEN.** *Dec. 16.*—Over 500 German military refugees left Trelleborg in a Russian ship.

**SYRIA AND THE LEBANON.** *Dec. 13.*—Signature of Anglo-French Agreement for withdrawal of armed forces. (*see Great Britain.*)

**U.S.A.** *Dec. 10.*—The President (and the Prime Ministers of Great Britain and Canada) issued a statement announcing that it had been agreed that the Combined Resources Board and the Combined Raw Materials Board should terminate on Dec. 31. But conditions did not yet permit the dissolution of the Combined Food Board, though it was anticipated that it would be dissolved on June 30.

Dec. 11.—The State Department, in a statement on economic policy towards Germany, said that to "prevent disease and unrest" there the United States and other Allies would have to finance a programme of imports during 1946 and 1947. It opposed any plan "wantonly to destroy German structures and installations which can readily be used for permitted peace-time industrial activities or for temporary shelter". Mr. Byrnes, in an accompanying statement, said that during the winter liberated Europe "must enjoy higher priority than Germany" on food and supply shipments. He went on to describe the four immediate aims of their policy: (1) to increase as much as possible the export of coal from Germany to liberated areas. It was their intention to maintain a policy of hastening the recovery of these even at the cost of delaying recovery in Germany, and the rate of recovery depended upon supplies of coal; (2) to use the next 3-4 months to set up, with the Allies, the machinery necessary to execute the reparations and disarmament programmes; (3) German administrative agencies must be set up, to operate under close policy control by the Allies in finance, transport, communications, foreign trade, and industry; (4) mass starvation must be prevented. In terms of world supply and of food shipments from the U.S.A. liberated areas must enjoy a higher priority than Germany throughout the winter of 1945-46.

The role of the occupying authorities in the process of German revival should be that of providing and settling conditions within which the Germans themselves assumed the responsibility for the performance of the German economy. To this end the occupying authorities should devote their primary attention to the development of German administrative machinery in the fields of intra-zonal production and trade and in the application of common policies in transport, agriculture, banking, taxation, etc.

Dec. 12.—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved by 15 votes to 1 a resolution favouring unrestricted Jewish immigration into Palestine, "to the maximum of its agricultural and economic potentialities, and that there should be full opportunity for colonization and development so that they may freely proceed with the building up of Palestine as a Jewish national home...."

Dec. 13.—The Government invited 14 countries to send representatives to a trade conference in the spring in preparation for the conference on international trade and employment to be convened in the summer.

Dec. 14.—Lord Halifax, speaking in Washington, said of the loan agreement, "We of Great Britain have not been at any stage concerned to ask your Government to do anything for us they could not honestly recommend to Congress as something that was good for the United States".

Dec. 15.—Gen. Marshall left for Chungking. President Truman, in a statement on policy towards China, reiterated that America would continue to recognize the Chungking Government as the only legal one and as "the proper instrument to achieve the objective of unifying

China". They believed it was essential that: a cessation of hostilities be arranged for the purpose of completing the return of all China to effective Chinese control; and a national conference of representatives of major political elements be arranged to develop a solution of the internal strife—a solution which would bring about a unification of China.

U.S. Marines were there to help in the complete elimination of Japanese influence, but "U.S. support will not extend to military intervention to influence the course of any Chinese internal strife." They believed, he added, that peace, unity, and democratic reform would be furthered if the basis of the Government was broadened to include other political elements besides the Kuomintang. As China moved towards unity America would be prepared to assist a National Government to rehabilitate the country, improve industrial and agrarian economy, and establish a military organization capable of discharging China's national and international responsibilities.

The U.S.A. had already been compelled to pay a great price to restore the peace first broken by the Japanese aggression in Manchuria. The maintenance of peace in the Pacific might be jeopardized, if not frustrated, unless Japanese influence in China was wholly removed and unless China took her place as a unified, democratic, and peaceful nation. That was the purpose of the maintenance for the time being of U.S. forces in China.

The U.S. Government considered that "detailed steps necessary to the achievement of political unity must be worked out by the Chinese themselves; it feels, however, that China has a clear responsibility to the other United Nations to eliminate armed conflict within the country as constituting a threat to world stability and peace—a responsibility which is shared by the National Government and all Chinese political and military groups."

In furtherance of assistance for the rehabilitation of the country the United States would be prepared to give favourable consideration to Chinese requests for credits and loans for projects which would contribute towards the development of a healthy economy throughout China and healthy trade relations with the U.S.A.

The Acting Secretary of State received Señor Negrín, the last Spanish Republican Prime Minister.

*Dec. 17.*—Congress sent to the President for signature a measure authorizing an additional \$1,350 million for U.N.R.R.A.

Mr. Pauley, the President's envoy leading the reparations mission to Japan, stated on his arrival from there that the United States would be lucky to get \$1,000 million from Japan, and this would be mostly in gold. He advocated giving all removable Japanese equipment to China and the Philippines.

The Senate, with very few dissentients, adopted a resolution urging the Government to use its good offices with Great Britain for the opening of Palestine fully to Jewish immigration.

*Dec. 18.*—The House of Representatives passed, by 344 votes to 15,

legislation implementing participation in the United Nations Organization, including the furnishing of armed forces.

*Dec. 19.*—The House of Representatives passed the Bill to implement U.S. participation in U.N.O.

The President sent a message to Congress asking for legislation to merge the two departments of national defence to convince the world that the United States was determined to be prepared in the age of atomic warfare, in the event of which the States would probably be the first target. He also made an urgent plea for the enactment of a law for compulsory military training for youths between 18 and 20.

The Acting Secretary of State told the press that the Administration had earnestly represented to Britain and Siam that they should not conclude an agreement until American views had been placed before the British Government.

The State Department announced that it had asked the Dutch and Indonesians to resume their conversations for a peaceful settlement "recognizing alike the natural aspirations of the Indonesian peoples and the legitimate rights and interests of the Netherlands".

The House of Representatives agreed to the Senate resolution regarding Palestine.

**U.S.S.R.** *Dec. 10.*—Moscow radio stated that as a result of the policy of the occupation authorities in some countries in western Europe the forces of internal reaction had become more active, and were fiercely resisting the democratic movement. In Italy the occupation authorities created an organization and Government which tied down the initiative of the people and promoted the activities of reactionary groups. The Greek people were still in the power of reactionaries who collaborated with the Germans and were hostile to the democratic Governments in neighbouring States.

*Dec. 14.*—Mr. Byrnes arrived in Moscow.

*Dec. 15.*—Mr. Bevin arrived in Moscow; also the British Ambassador to Persia.

*Dec. 16.*—A meeting was held between M. Molotov, Mr. Bevin, and Mr. Byrnes.

*Dec. 17.*—*The New Times* stated that "to doubt the necessity of the Big Three is to doubt the necessity for stability and co-operation between the great Powers of the United Nations in the interest of all peace-loving nations, big and small". Referring to the question of national sovereignty it said, "To talk about a future federation of States on these lines is one thing, but to talk of a world federation led by British Conservatives and American Middle-West isolationists is quite another. It should not be forgotten that the label of world federation not infrequently disguises the unfounded claims of certain great Powers to the leading role in world affairs. It is significant that they claim to want to perfect the United Nations Charter, but their demand, in the main, is for a renunciation of the principle of unanimity and the right of veto by the great Powers constituting the permanent

Council which were incorporated in the Charter. This principle is being attacked in so frank a form that the ultimate argument is the atomic bomb . . . Is not the proposal to abandon the unanimity of the great Powers in the Council nothing but a proposal to abandon co-operation between the peace-loving great Powers and to adopt different lines of international policy?" The article was broadcast in English by Moscow radio.

*Bolshevik* (organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party) stated that the colonial system concealed in itself much danger for the general peace. The Soviet Government could not be indifferent to the question of the distribution of territories under trusteeship. It went on to say that "In spite of repeated promises by the British Government India remains a country without political rights . . . The situation is no better in other British colonies".

Marshal Stalin arrived back in Moscow.

*Dec. 18.*—A leading article in *Pravda* declared that the Azerbaijan development was a national democratic movement which was spreading through Persia. As to the withdrawal of troops it said the treaty of 1942 clearly defined the tasks, conditions, and length of the Soviet troops' stay there, "not to mention that under the Soviet-Iranian Treaty of 1921 the Soviet Union has the right to introduce troops into Persian territory". The writer asked what British troops were doing in Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Indonesia, Belgium, France, Holland, Denmark, and Norway, or American troops in China and Egypt? "There is no direct answer to these questions", he said, "nothing but dense fog."

*Dec. 19.*—Marshal Stalin received Mr. Bevin and Mr. Byrnes. Tass reports from Tokyo spoke of the great dissatisfaction of Japanese left-wing parties with certain elements in political life seeking to shield the Emperor.

*Pravda* stated that the presence of large U.S. forces in China was inconsistent with respect for Chinese sovereign rights and for the principle of non-intervention. It also encouraged the more intractable of Chiang Kai-shek's supporters and gave them dangerous illusions of their strength. Referring to President Truman's statement of policy, it said the task of disarming the Japanese did not require the presence of U.S. tanks, aircraft, and warships. The presence of a foreign army in north China justified the Soviet in keeping troops in Manchuria for a certain period.

**YUGOSLAVIA.** *Dec. 18.*—Marshal Tito broadcast a statement accusing Italy of "dodging" the Moscow Conference decisions on the extradition of war criminals, and maintaining Yugoslavia's demands for reparations from Italy. Large numbers of incorrigible Fascists were still active, inciting the people against the freedom-loving nations of Yugoslavia. Some Allied circles, he said, wished to spare Italy in the matter of reparations, but she had not been a satellite of Germany, but an equal partner in the occupation of Yugoslavia. He denied accusations that several thousand Italians from Zone A had been deported by the Yugoslav troops when they withdrew.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

*Dec. 13.*—The I.L.O. Conference on inland transport representing the Governments, employers, and work-people of 26 nations held its first meeting in London.

*Dec. 15.*—In the Preparatory Commission Committee Eight rejected, by 26 votes to 24, a Canadian amendment proposing a secret ballot on the question of the site of the U.N.O. headquarters. A Uruguayan amendment in favour of Europe was then rejected by 25 votes to 23, the U.S.A. and Paraguay abstaining, and Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia voting against it. A vote was then taken on the original recommendation to have a site in the U.S.A., and this was accepted by 30 votes to 14—a two-thirds majority. Six, including the U.S.A., abstained.

Canada then moved, and Britain seconded, a proposal to consider the recommendation to be unanimous, and this was carried without a division.

*Dec. 16.*—A formal meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Britain, the U.S.A., and the U.S.S.R. took place in Moscow.

*Dec. 18.*—The first plenary session of the Preparatory Commission of U.N.O. was held in London. It adopted the report of the economic and social committee and that of the committee on the Security Council.